

the Rocky Mountain Scat



a l l t h e s c a t f i t t o p r i n t

October 2006

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American Camp Association
Rocky Mountain Section
PO Box 2566
Estes Park, CO 80517

President's Letter

From the Head
Scatologist:



October, 2006

Fall felicitations
friendly camp folk,

Here is an "autumnal
soliloquy" for you:

Horray for the summer, August, June and
July.

As much as we love it, we're glad it's
passed by!

Camp folk are a rare breed, a unique
sturdy lot,

They smile with great glee when the
leaves start to rot.

Oh they like the summer, don't get me
wrong...

But with staff, parents, and campers, it
goes on too long!

We're weary of camp food, no beanies and
weenies,

No more cling peaches, or mystery meat
on linguini.

Some lucky camp folks go on a holiday
'bout.

Others bleary-eyed, are left with their
tongues hanging out.

The campers have gone, no phone call
from mothers,

We may miss some staff, but they're not
part of our 'druthers.

We're grateful it's fall, that the summer
was active.

Now peace and calm has descended with
the effect of a laxative.

So take a sigh of relief that the summer is
passed,

'Cause that hectic planning for oh-seven
will be coming on fast.

To all our camp pals we hope your
summer was full, fun, safe, and fulfilling.
Check out all the coming ACA functions!
The fall conference in November at
Sanborn promises to be great fellowship as
well chock-full of helpful discussion and
intercourse (now here's is a term you don't
use lightly with your staff!) for planning
for the '07 season.

A warm welcome to our newest members
of RMS (see article pg 6). We will value
the opportunities to learn from one another
through our common attraction of CAMP!

A special salute to little Grace Thamert
- a brand new ACA progeny, US citizen
and one year old daughter of Betsy and
husband Andy Thamert. She's already
come to one board meeting.

Please note the camp tour on October 20th.
This is a great opportunity to visit five
ACA camps in the Estes Park area. Each
is unique in its background, facility, and
mission. We hope to see you there as well
as at our annual meeting in November.
Have a restful fall.

Warmly,

Nancy Atkinson

Nancy Atkinson
President, RMS ■

Fall Conference = Fall Fundraiser!

Every year during our Fall Conference, we have a section fundraising event. Every year, you are all creative, thoughtful and generous. Well, it is that time of year again – we are asking you to start thinking about ways to help support our annual event. All donations are tax-deductible and the funds we raise are used within the Section to support a wide variety of projects. All aspects of running our Section benefit from your support.

Just to get the thought process flowing, here are some items you might think about donating: bottles of wine, restaurant gift certificates, gift cards from anywhere and everywhere

(Lowe’s, Barnes & Noble, Starbuck, etc...), cool products for the home, outdoor gear, gift baskets, event tickets (AV’s, Bronco’s, Symphony, Theatre, etc...), ski tickets, condo space, and whatever else you can think of! Don’t forget to think about the asking the businesses you work with and your friends and family for donation items.

If you have any questions, would like to make a donation, or have a suggestion of someone we could contact for a gift item please call or email Molly Robison (720-201-6476 or mollyrobison@sopris.net). Thanks in advance for your support and I look forward to seeing you in November! ■

Fall Conference Vendors

The Unopposed Exhibit Hall time is Tuesday, November 1th from 4:00 to 7:00 PM. For further information please contact Winston Marugg at (970) 264-4379.

As of today (Monday 10/9) we have 6 vendors registered plus the vendors from US Food.

Callippe Solutions
Wynne Whyman
wwhyman@callippe.com
(719) 591-7307
cell (719) 641-0917

Camp Channel
Eric Beerman
info@campchannel.com
(970) 728-7035

Bunk1.com
Jacob Zlotoff
jacob@bunk1.com
(888) 465-2267

Leahy and Associates
Jennifer Leahy
Jenb@leadhy-inc.com
(303) 673-9832

Kids Camps/Camp Jobs
Nancy Diamond
nancy@kidscamps.com
(561) 443-2924

Is Wear Outfitters
Sarah Laib
Sarah@iswear.com
(260) 483-5444

US Foods
Cheryl Ricketts
cheryl.ricketts@usfood.com
(719) 686-8483 ■

From the Section Office

An Update on Section Updates

An invisible red thread connects those who are destined to meet, regardless of time, place, or circumstance. The thread may stretch or tangle, but will never break.

- Ancient Chinese Saying

The above saying explains how the Chinese believe we meet the people that will be important in our lives. When the time is right for us to meet, the invisible red threads are shortened, bringing us together.

I found this saying almost two years ago when my husband Andy and I started the process to adopt a child from China. A few days after we had made this decision, I ran into my friend, Lisa whom I had not seen or talked to in months, and learned that she and her husband had also decided to adopt a child from China. Our red threads were shortening! The threads continued to shorten as both families completed the required paperwork at the same time, submitted documents to China on the same day, and best of all were matched with daughters from the same orphanage. The icing on the cake was traveling to China together with 13 other families to adopt our daughters. And now for the best part of the story.....Our friends are no ordinary people, they are camp people! Shea and Lisa Simms direct High Peak Camp and Conference Center, an ACA camp located just south of Estes Park. On August 16th Kyra joined their family and Grace joined ours. What a blessing it was for our two families to share this special day as well as almost three weeks of travel together! Let me know if you’d like to see our pictures or hear about some of our adventures!

Every summer red threads are shortened at camp. Just think about the friendships that are formed between campers and between staff, many of which will last a lifetime. I hope that your summer was rewarding, exciting, fun, and that you had a few “red thread moments”.

Betsy ■



Camp Spotlight

Colvig Silver Camps

History

In 1969 Craig and Mary Colvig founded Colvig Silver Camps outside Durango, Colorado. CSC was developed from the foundation of the Silver Spruce Camp for boys and Silver Saddle Camp for girls, directed and owned by Forrest Groves. Their first camping season at the Groves' site marked the beginning of a thirty year era of children's camping. CSC remains, to this day, the only camp of its kind in southwest Colorado.

Colvig Silver Camps was founded on the principles of building self-esteem, identity and leadership in a non-competitive environment. Craig and Mary set out to pursue these principles by exploring the mountains, rivers, lakes, deserts and canyons of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Arizona. Thirty years later, roughly 5000 campers have passed through the gates of CSC, many to return as staff or supporting alumni.

During that first summer, Craig and Mary discovered the Red Creek Valley just down the road and subsequently purchased 250 acres that are now the heart of our CSC community. CSC has since expanded to its current size, which includes over 600 acres, 40 buildings, and three additional camps - Homesteading, Outpost and Pathfinding. The Colvig family also expanded as "Uncle Jim" and Kathy Colvig joined the budding camp effort, as well as Mary and Craig's three sons: Clay, Cameron and Cassidy.

For 12 years CSC flourished under Craig and Mary's direction. As enrollment numbers grew so did the number of buses, cabins, horses and backpacks. During this time, CSC became an accredited member of the

American Camping Association and a member of the Western Association of Independent Camps. Tragically, Craig Colvig and two staff members were killed in a private plane crash in 1981.



Recently divorced from Mary, Craig left the CSC legacy to his three sons and the responsibility of 'direction' to long-time assistant directors Tom "Frosty" Frostman and his wife Susan (Sam).

Frosty and Sam carried the torch for four years after which they left to pursue other interests. Upon their departure in 1985, "Uncle Jim" Colvig picked up the torch and brought CSC into the 90's. Along with his second wife Jane and daughter Jacy, Jim spent 9 years pursuing the ideals of camp with continued involvement from founder, Mary Colvig-Miller, oldest son Clay Colvig and long-time Program Director June Maier-Reineke.

In 1993 Jim "retired" from the director's position, but remained involved at camp as a CSC board member and physical plant manager. Cameron Colvig and his wife Nicole took over as directors, developing new programming and rekindling a relationship with the Western Association of Independent Camps. Cameron's decision in 1998 to take on the challenge of medical school brought Clay Colvig and his wife Tavia back to camp as the directors. They bring both traditional and fresh



perspectives to a management team

Camp Spotlight continued on 4

Who's Who

Board of Directors ACA Rocky Mountain Section

Betsy Thamert, Section Executive

1-888-926-CAMP
rmexec@yahoo.com

Nancy Atkinson, President

303-697-4621, x11
nancy@genevaglen.org

Mike MacDonald, Vice President

719-748-3341
mikemac@sanbornwesterncamps.com

Andrew VanDerWege, Secretary

303-664-5458, x216
camps@ymcabv.org

Juli Kramer, Treasurer

303-741-0159
addipres@msn.com

Gail Albers, Standards

970-586-3341, x1108
gma25@aol.com

Marty Ferguson, Education

970-887-2152, x4172
mferguson@ymcarockies.org

Jim Zimmerman, Public Relations

303-388-4013, x314
jim@congregationemanuel.com

Jeff Cheley, Legislative

303-377-3616
jeffcheley@cheley.com

Molly Robison, Membership

720-201-6476
mollyrobison@sopris.net

Kreg Hamburger, Communications

303-697-4621, x12
kreg@genevaglen.org

Roman Krafczyk, Member at Large

303-569-2333

that now includes Assistant Director Lindsay James and Program Directors Michael Gustafson and Jack MaGill and Aaron "Eagle" Deutsch (site manager) following Jim Colvig's retirement in 2006. It is a team that will ensure fun and exciting summers of growth and development for everyone for years to come.

CSC started as and remains a family owned and operated business with historical and current involvement from two generations of Colvigs: Mary Colvig-Miller as a board member and Clay, Tavia, Jim and Cassidy as current management. Certainly,

none of CSC's longevity would be possible without the contributions of camp families such as the Weidmanns, Barbara Hudson, the Barkleys, the Frostmans, the Vorwalds, Reinekes, and recent and current contributions

by Scott Kelley, Gray Berryman, Amie Podolsky, Andrew Notbohm, and Megan Weidmann.

CSC remains, as always, committed to teaching today's youth the value of outdoor ethics and a respect for our natural world. We pride ourselves on fostering personal growth, self-esteem and leadership in a non-competitive environment through challenges in and out of the traditional camp setting.



Camping Programs

Homestead

GRADES 2-4 COMPLETED, COED

Homestead is built to resemble an old west town with an Assay Office,

Camp Spotlight continued on 5

October News from the National Office

This is only a highlight of what is available in the October Issue of Inside ACA, http://acacamps.org/inside/06_10/.

What's Up with Research?

- Enrollment Survey
- Salary Survey
- Budget Comparison Data Available

Learning Resources

- American Camp Association 2007 National Conference (www.ACAcamps.org/conference)

Widening the Circle

February 13-16

Austin, Texas

Visit the National Conference Web site (www.ACAcamps.org/conference) and look for information in Inside ACA (www.ACAcamps.org/inside) and in November/December Camping Magazine and the October ACA's Resource Flyer.

- Student Camp Leadership Academy

Visit www.ACAcamps.org/scla for full information and a registration form.

Business Resources

- USA TODAY's CAMP TODAY— The Place For Your Camp Message

Association News

- Use the Correct ACA Logo
- Camping Magazine Seeks Editorial Advisory Committee Members
- Camp Makes a Great Gift; Tell Your Camper Parents and Grandparents!
- The Premier Resource for Camp Professionals
- Enter the 2006 J. Wendell and Ruth T. Howe Golden Lens Contest
- Volunteers Calling YOU to Make a Difference in CAMPAign '07 ■

Livery and First Frontier Bank. Following the old west theme, Homesteaders cook their own breakfast each morning over an open fire and do ranch chores, such as feeding chickens, sheep and pigs.

For many Homesteaders, this is their first extended stay away from home and/or introduction to wilderness camping.

Silver Saddle

GRADES 5 - 7 COMPLETED, ALL GIRLS

Silver Saddle is an all-girls program located in the heart of the CSC site. Girls from all over the country attend four week sessions to experience the



beauty of southwest Colorado. Silver Saddle will share time with its 'brother camp' Silver Spruce, as they eat meals together, have weekly dances and share one coed wilderness trip.

Silver Spruce

GRADES 5-7 COMPLETED, ALL BOYS

Silver Spruce campers come from all over the U.S. to join 20-40 other boys in a four week program. Spruce boys will interact with their 'sister camp', Silver Saddle, as they share the dining hall, have weekly dances and go on one coed trip together.

Outpost

GRADES 8-9 COMPLETED, COED

Outpost is a coed wilderness-focused program, with campers spending roughly three-



quarters of their four week session on various wilderness trips. At this level, campers are asked to begin taking a leadership role on expeditions as staff instill a sense of cooperation and leadership in all group members. Trips are structured in a progressive manner from shortest to longest, and campers are able to choose trips of varying difficulty levels. This is a great step up for our Silver Spruce and Silver Saddle groups and also a great primer for our Pathfinding program.

Pathfinding

GRADES 9-11 COMPLETED, COED

Pathfinding is the culmination of the CSC wilderness experience. A small coed group (8-10 including two staff) spends four weeks "on the trail" in several different environments. We meet with them at scheduled intervals to restock their food and supplies, and to check on their progress. Participants are required to take leadership roles such as group leader, navigator and cook throughout the session. The Pathfinding program offers an emotionally and physically challenging environment, through which campers grow and develop both as individuals and as a group.

For more information, please visit their website at www.colvigsilvercamps.com or contact Lindsay via email: office@colvigsilvercamps.com. ■

A Message from Standards



We had a very successful summer for visitations. The following camps all passed the accreditation visits, and score letters will be sent out next week.

- Eagle Lake Camp
- Easter Seals, Rocky Mountain Village
- Galcier View Ranch
- High Peak Camp and Conference Center
- Highlands Presyterian Camp and Conference Center
- Horizon Adventures Inc.
- J-CC Ranch Camp
- LaForet Conference Center
- Meadow Mountain Ranch
- Poulter Colorado Camps
- Tomahawk Ranch
- YMCA Camp Jackson

Congrats to all the camps, and thanks so much to all the visitors that took time out of their busy schedules to visit the camps in our section. We couldn't do any of this without you!

Gail Albers

Standards Chair ■

Section March Board Minutes are available to view on the RMS ACA website - acarockymountain.org

**Greetings to the
ACA-RMS members!**

I can't believe we have arrived in October already; it seems like summer just ended. I want to welcome all of the new members to the Section and invite them to join us at the Fall Camp Tour and/or the Fall Conference in November. I am really looking forward to talking with other members of our profession, sharing our summer highs and lows, learning ways to prepare for next summer, and enjoying each others wonderful company. I truly value the friendships and professional relationships I have made through membership in the Section. I am pleased to introduce 18 new members that have joined the RMS since our conference last year:

- Sarah Nett-Barth, Champ Camp
- Yosef Shidler
- Lori Bissell, Speed Stacks Inc.
- Dirk Bird, JCC Ranch Camp
- Robyn Flemming, JCC Ranch Camp
- Maria Shupe, Highlands Presbyterian Camp
- Doug Stone, Town of Breckenridge
- Mark Birdseye
- Clayton Hart, Glacier View Ranch
- Jan Wilson, Colorado Camp Cherith
- Amie Podolsky
- Terry Terrones, YMCA of the Pikes Peak Region
- Andrew Stoller, Poulter Colorado Camps
- Elizabeth Rundle, Sanborn Western Camps
- Ryan McGowan, Sanborn Western Camps
- Tim Hammond, The Duck Company
- Tom Marshall, Teton Valley Ranch Camp
- Bevin Carithers ■

Sponsorship Opportunities

Interested in becoming a sponsor of the Fall Conference or future conferences for Camp and Youth Development Professionals? ■

\$250 Ponderosa Pine Level

- Recognition in all conference promotional materials
- Listing on the ACA, Rocky Mountain Section web site
- Listing on sponsor signage during the conference
- Recognition in conference program/schedule
- Opportunity to place a product sample and/or advertisement in conference goody bag
- Acknowledgement in The Scat, (ACA, Rocky Mountain's newsletter) before and after the conference

\$500 Aspen Level

- Half-price exhibit hall booth fee
- Link to your web site on the ACA, Rocky Mountain Section web site
- Recognition in all conference promotional materials
- Listing on the ACA, Rocky Mountain Section web site
- Listing on sponsor signage during the conference
- Recognition in conference program/schedule
- Opportunity to place a product sample and/or advertisement in conference goody bag
- Acknowledgement in The Scat, (ACA, Rocky Mountain's newsletter) before and after the conference

\$1000 Bristlecone Pine Level

- Complimentary exhibit hall booth
- Opportunity to speak to conference participants (5 minutes) prior to a general session or meal
- Recognition on all email newsletters sent prior to the conference
- Link to your web site on the ACA, Rocky Mountain Section web site
- Recognition in all conference promotional materials
- Listing on the ACA, Rocky Mountain Section web site
- Listing on sponsor signage during the conference
- Recognition in conference program/schedule
- Opportunity to place a product sample and/or advertisement in conference goody bag
- Feature article and acknowledgement in The Scat, (ACA, Rocky Mountain's newsletter) before and after the conference



Fall Conference 2006

Embrace the Challenge

November 14-15th

The Nature Place, Florissant, CO

We are busy planning a rich program for your professional development and entertainment. These are the keynote speakers to peak your interest.

Dr. Benjamin Feinstein

“Creating a Community of Learners”

Tuesday probably 10:00 – 11:15 AM as our opening keynote

Dr. Feinstein, a former staff member at Camp Chief Ouray, Camp Kern, Camp Nissokone and Global Youth Village, will have his research on creating a community of learners published in January

Jane Healy

Wednesday probably 1:00 – 2:00 PM as our closing keynote

Jane Healy, Ph.D., is an educational psychologist and teacher who loves camp and has worked with students from preschool through graduate school. She consults and lectures worldwide, helping teachers and parents understand the educational implications of current brain research. She has appeared on national media such as the Today show, Nightline, Good Morning America, and CNN. A mother and grandmother, she currently lives in Vail, CO. She authored *Endangered Minds: Why Children Don't Think and What We Can Do About It*, *How to Have Intelligent Conversations with Your Kids*, and *Your Child's Growing Mind: A Guide to Learning and Brain Development from Birth to Adolescence*.

Please check the RMS ACA website for schedule updates - acarockymountain.org. ■

Fall Camp Tour 2006

It is not too late to register for the Fall Camp Tour which will be held next Friday, October 20th from 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. in Estes Park. This information is also available on the section website, www.acarockymountain.org.

Participants will have the opportunity to visit the following camps:

- YMCA of the Rockies, Estes Park Center
- Cheley Colorado Camps
- Highlands Presbyterian Camp and Conference Center
- Meadow Mountain Ranch (Girl Scouts)
- High Peak Camp and Conference Center (Salvation Army)

If you would like additional information or have questions, contact Betsy (888-926-2267 or rmexec@yahoo.com). Don't miss this fun and informative day! ■

What's Up With Research??

While you have all been focused on running great camps this summer, we have been busy gathering information and developing resources to help answer some of the questions we get from you. We want to highlight just two of these projects and let you know where you can find more details.

- Financial/budget Information for Camps: This project provides you with the latest financial data from over 1000 ACA accredited camps. The information is broken out by day and resident camp. For each one, you can look at a summary of findings by region and sponsorship or you can look at tables broken out by gross revenues and sponsor on areas such as annual camper days, gross revenues, expense categories, weekly fees, profitability, and revenue and expense by camper day. The information is available in PDF to members by going to <http://www.acacamps.org/research/> and clicking on 2006 Business Operations Survey. Also look for an article in Sept-Oct. *Camping Magazine* as well as a new book to be published in 2007 to help camps with financial management!
- Look for your mailed copies of *Inspirations* and *Innovations* in September! These booklets provide the benchmark (starting point) of 80 camps who participated in Phase I of the Program Improvement Project (PIP) that assessed youth development supports and opportunities at camp. The *Inspirations* booklet provides a summary of this information based on camp and camper characteristics. *Innovations* is the third in this series focused on outcomes and opportunities for youth development in camps. This booklet provides a summary of the strategies and practices implemented by 23 camps that went through a program improvement process and offers camps a step-by-step way to carry out your own process. Both of these projects were generously funded by the Lilly Foundation, Inc. Beside the mailed copies, you will be able to find both booklets as PDFs on the ACA Research website at <http://www.acacamps.org/research> - also look for a series of PIP articles in *Camping Magazine* as well as other educational resources.

There are several other exciting projects underway so we will keep you posted on their progress as the year goes on. If you have any questions about these (or other) projects, just contact Deb Bialeschki (dbialeschki@acacamps.org). ■

The Rocky Mountain Scout

American Camp Association
Rocky Mountain Section
PO Box 2566
Estes Park CO 80517



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

October 2006

Directions

Directions to the Nature Place from Interstate 25 in Colorado Springs, take Highway 24 West (exit 141) toward Manitou Springs and Pikes Peak. Stay on Highway 24 through Manitou Springs, Woodland Park, then Divide. About 8 miles past Divide on Highway 24 you will reach Florissant. Drive through Florissant then turn left on the gravel road (route 46) at the top of the hill just west of town. There is a real estate office and a sign for Wagon Tongue Road on the corner. Follow this road about 2.5 miles, bearing left at the fork. Go about 1.7 miles and you will reach a covered wagon. Bear left here, continue up the hill, and we will be the first driveway on the right. Please drive carefully on unpaved roads-the gravel can be unpredictable, and children, animals, and semi-trailers may be encountered at any time. Any problems please call us at (719) 748-3475. ■

A Map to the Fall Conference

